

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1429

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13897

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DAVID KORN AND NSC STAFFER ROBERT OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR US LE

SUBJECT: FRANGIE PIQUE

REF: EMBTEL 13851 AND 13853

1. THIS EVENING, NOV 19, I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA AT HIS HOME. HE HAD JUST HAD A LONG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE DURING WHICH HE DELIVERED MY LETTER TO PRESIDENT CONTAINING PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO FRANGIE.

2. FRANGIE'S REACTION TO LETTER WAS NEGATIVE IN THAT HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT DID NOT RPT NOT APOLOGIZE FOR DOG SNIFFING. TAQLA SAID HE ARGUED WITH FRANGIE, STATING YOU COULD NOT EXPECT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS HIMSELF TO SUCH A MATTER WHEN THERE WERE MORE IMPORTANT AFFAIRS OF STATE AT HAND. FRANGIE'S RESPONSE WAS THAT HE, AND IN HIS PERSON THE LEBANON, HAD BEEN INSULTED BY AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT TAQLA HAD A ROUGH TIME WITH HIS PRESIDENT.

3. THEY THEN DISCUSSED U.S. REPRESENTATION AT FRIDAY, NOV 22, CEREMONY OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE. PRESIDENT'S POSITION WAS HE DID NOT RPT NOW WANT TO HAVE ANY AMERICANS PRESENT DUE TO THE "INSULT" HE HAD RECEIVED FROM OUR COUNTRY. TAQLA STATED THAT HE TOLD PRESIDENT

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IT WAS INTOLERABLE FOR HIM TO HAVE A CELEBRATION

OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT AN AMERICAN BEING PRESENT. HE CITED GEORGE WADSWORTH'S ROLE AT THE TIME OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE, WHAT WE HAD DONE FOR THE LEBANON, ETC. AGAIN, AFTER WHAT I GATHER WAS A RATHER HEATED EXCHANGE, THE PRESIDENT SAID OKAY, HAVE A JUNIOR AMERICAN PRESENT.

4. WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WHO SHOULD REPRESENT US AND AGREED THAT ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WARING WOULD BE THE BEST IN THAT HE DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INCLINED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF HIS REPRESENTING US. TAQLA SAID THAT HE KNOWS WARING AND WOULD MAKE A SPECIAL POINT OF GREETING HIM. I BELIEVE THIS IS BEST SOLUTION AND TOLD TAQLA THAT I WOULD SO RECOMMEND.

5. TAQLA THEN WENT ON IN A DISTURBED BUT PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION OF U.S./LEBANESE RELATIONS; HOW ESSENTIAL IT WAS THAT THEY BE EXCELLENT; AND HIS ASSURANCES HE WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THEM BACK TO A MORE LEVEL KEEL. HE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WASHINGTON SHARED THESE VIEWS AND WAS NOT RPT NOT BECOMING TOO ANNOYED WITH FRANGIE. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT WASHINGTON WOULD SHOW A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE FOR IT HAD A RATHER GOOD IDEA OF THE MAN WE WERE DEALING WITH. THROUGHOUT THIS PORTION OF OUR DISCUSSION, IT WAS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT FRANGIE IS STILL IN A MOST CUSSSED MOOD AND THE STUBBORN OLD TRIBAL CHIEF IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED AT THIS MOMENT TO MAKE ANY STATESMANLIKE GESTURES.
GODLEY

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